

Grand Traverse County Drug Free Coalition Newsletter

Volume 2 / Issue 6 / June 2019

RURAL MICHIGAN OPIOID SUMMIT

The Michigan Center for Rural Health
(MCRH)

JULY 18TH
7:30AM-5:00PM

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning project has identified the need for coordinated activities in Northern Michigan to address opioid use disorder (OUD) prevention, treatment, recovery, and workforce. The MCRH hopes to unite community members and organizations that are actively engaged in OUD efforts in rural Northern Michigan. For more information, or to register, visit <https://www.mcrh.msu.edu/events/Simple-Internal%20base1.html>

RETHINKING ADDICTION CONFERENCE

Addiction Treatment Services

AUGUST 22ND
8:00AM-5:00PM

The purpose of this event is to bring together community members from various sectors to work on the most effective and impactful strategies and initiatives to address the public health crisis of addiction. For more information, or to register, visit <https://www.rethinkingaddiction.org/>

A NOTE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Happy summer! The weather is finally starting to warm up and it is time to enjoy our beautiful Northern Michigan summer.

At our June meeting, Wendy Hirschenberger, from the Grand Traverse County Health Department, presented the key findings from the Grand Traverse County Epidemiology Substance Use Assessment. More details regarding the results and next steps are included in the next section of this newsletter. We will not be meeting in July; we will resume our normal meetings again on August 8.

We have some great events taking place in our area this summer, be sure to read about the upcoming Rural Michigan Opioid Summit and ATS's Rethinking Addiction Conference.

Health and Happiness,

Lauren

EPIDEMIOLOGY SUBSTANCE USE ASSESSMENT

A dashboard using traffic light indicators was developed to demonstrate data trends obtained from the assessment. Red indicates an increase, a high value, or an area that could be considered for intervention. At our June meeting, Wendy presented the red light indicators that were identified in the study related to alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, opioids & heroin, and cocaine & other drugs.

Using this data, the next steps for our coalition will be to identify "red light" data trends that we would like to address and develop a plan to be implemented. We will begin this process at future meetings.

For a copy of the full report, please contact Lauren Houghan at laurenhoughan.coalition@gmail.com.

STAND CLUBS

Now that the schools are on summer vacation, we have wrapped up this year's STAND Clubs. We are eager and excited to get back into the schools in the fall to continue our prevention efforts and we hope to spread to the middle schools next year as well. We will be hosting a Youth Summit again this fall to bring together students from multiple Grand Traverse County schools.

NEWS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- 9&10 News – 'Hope Not Handcuffs' Receives Big Donation to Help People Struggling with Substance Abuse: <https://www.9and10news.com/2019/06/04/hope-not-handcuffs-receives-big-donation-to-help-people-struggling-with-substance-abuse/>
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (press release) – Michigan Tobacco Quit Line Offering Free Nicotine Patches, Gum, and Lozenges through September: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2019/06/17/file_attachments/1231577/2019%20Free%20NRT%20NR.pdf
- The Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer (press release) – Statewide Partners Commit \$5 Million for Programs Focused on Treating Opioid Addiction in Michigan: <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499-500230--,00.html>
- The New York Times – Can Marijuana Help Cure the Opioid Crisis?: https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/17/upshot/marijuana-opioids-research-connection.html?fbclid=IwAR2nggFKSOaJBSqHUv7-msEEfaMC-arQ5X_MG2So-1NNuwkrUBoTFjdymdo

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

The Grand Traverse County Drug Free Coalition will **NOT be meeting in July. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, August 8 from 4-5pm at TC High School.**

July 11 6:30pm – Families Against Narcotics will be meeting at F&M Park for this month only. Food will be provided. <https://www.familiesagainstnarcotics.org/copy-of-grand-traverse>

Contact Us

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**Grand Traverse County
Drug Free Coalition**

If you have news or events you would like to share or are interested in participating in the Coalition, please contact Lauren Houghan via email at laurenhoughan.coalition@gmail.com